Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 PC-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 W

10717

O R 192323Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3876

INFO DIA DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 8291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, AR

SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 7: AIR FORCE REVOLT

ISCINCSO FOR POLAD

DIA DOD FOR DIN-2D4/DIR-3B3

- 1. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE BUT SITUATION AT MOMENT APPEARS HEADED IN DIRECTION OF CONFLICT. IN MEETING OF PRESIDENT, CABINET, THREE CINCS, ET AL (SEE SITREP NO. 6), THREE CINCS ARE REPORTED BY SEVERAL VERY RELIABLE SOURCES TO HAVE DEMANDED MRS. PERON'S REMOVAL (WHETHER BY RESIGNATION OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE NOT CLEAR) AS CONDITION FOR SOLUTION. MRS. PERON REFUSED.
- 2. CGT SHORTLY THEREAFTER INDICATED IT WOULD BE CALLING FOR MOBILIZATION OF WORKERS IN SUPPORT OF MRS. PERON WITHIN NEXT FEW HOURS. THIS COMES AT SAME TIME THAT OTHER REPORTS INDICATE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME ARMY AND NAVY UNITS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT

IN THEIR DESIRE TO JOIN IN EFFORT TO OUST MRS. PERON.

- 3. SOURCES CLOSE TO VIDELA TELL US HIS STATEMENT THIS AFTERNOON (SEE SITREP NO. 6) WAS NOT RPT NOT MEANT TO INDICATE SUPPORT FOR MRS. PERON; RATHER, IT INTENDED SIMPLY TO MARK TIME AND TO INDICATE HIS DISASSOCIATION FROM AF INITIATIVE. ARMY IS, IN FACT, IN RATHER ENVIABLE POSITION RIGHT NOW. IT NEED NOT MAKE ANY OVERT MOVE TO OUST MRS. PERON; RATHER, IT CAN SIT BACK AND WATCH HER TRY TO SUPPRESS REBELLION ON HER OWN. IF SHE CALLS ON ARMY, THEY WILL PROBABLY IGNORE HER. YET, IF SHE CANNOT SOON BRING MORON, AEROPARQUE AND MENDOZA AIRBASES UNDER CONTROL, HER POSITION AS PRESIDENT MAY HAVE RECEIVED FATAL BLOW. IN SUM, ARMY NEED NOT JOIN IN. FOR MOMENT, IT CAN SIMPLY WAIT. THERE MAY BE SOME NOTHEADS, HOWEVER, WHO WILL NOT BE WILLING TO PLAY THIS WAITING GAME.
- 4. COMMENT: AS WE ANALYZE SITUATION AT PRESENT TIME, SEVERAL CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN: A) IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT THERE CAN BE ANY PEACEFUL SOLUTION UNLESS MRS. PERON RESIGNS OR AT LEAST GOES ON LEAVE. B) IF MRS. PERON CAN BE MOVED ASIDE, CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION IS STILL POSSIBLE--I.E., ARMED FORCES MIGHT ACCEPT LUDER OR ANOTHER CIVILIAN AS PRESIDENT. C) FINALLY, THERE IS AS YET NO EVIDENCE THAT MRS. PERON DOES INTEND TO STEP DOWN. ON CONTRARY, INDICATIONS ARE THAT SHE MAY TRY TO MAKE A FIGHT OF IT AND CALL ON WORKERS TO DEFEND HER. WHETHER OR NOT WORKERS WOULD ANSWER CALL ON A FRIDAY NIGHT AFTER WHISTLE HAS BLOWN REMAINS TO BE SEEN. GENERAL STRIKE BEGINNING MONDAY MORNING IS MORE LIKELY RESPONSE.
- 5. AS CABLE BEING PREPARED CABINET MEETING PRESIDED OVER BY MRS. PERON IS GOING ON IN CASA ROSADA. HILL

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